



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy***

Friday, May 9, 2008

Internal Affairs Chief Investigator Willard Plank and Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility Superintendent Michael Dempsey were awarded Governor’s Public Service Achievement Awards. Both attended a ceremony and were recognized by Governor Mitch Daniels.

Commissioner Donahue addressed staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility’s Employee Recognition Ceremony and was the Keynote Speaker at the first Equine Management Program graduation. Esteemed guests at the graduation ceremony were Judge Sally Gray, State Representative Amos Thomas, and the Coordinator for Thoroughbred Breeding Development Jackie Brown.

The Westville Correctional Facility’s Employee Planning Committee distributed pens with a silk flower to every female employee in honor of Mother’s Day and to recognize their role beyond the workplace.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted the second Mini Relay for Life for more than 300 offenders. Offenders donated \$1,675 to the American Cancer Society and were able to walk for a short time in the yard to honor cancer victims and survivors.

Indiana State Prison held a staff assembly in celebration of Correctional Employees’ Week. State Representative Scott Pelath and Regional Director Rondle Anderson addressed the 250 employees present, and awards were given to the employees and department of the year.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted an Employee Appreciation Picnic where staff were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn, drinks, and other refreshments. Activities included a dunk tank, prize giveaways, games for children, a K-9 demonstration, and exhibits conducted by E-Squad and Fire Department personnel. Commissioner Donahue visited the facility to express his appreciation for the staff’s outstanding public service.

Camp Summit participated in Purdue University-Calumet’s annual Napoleon Hill World Leaning Center’s Student Day, which included a day of motivational speakers and a luncheon at the Calumet campus. 26 students and 6 staff participated in the program.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility wrapped up Correctional Employees’ Week with a chili cook-off. An ice cream social, a community cookout, and an Employee Recognition Ceremony were other events held during the week.

Madison Correctional Facility’s PLUS Unit has begun a service project that involves the clearing of debris from Madison’s railroad incline. The City of Madison wants the railroad incline cleared and turned into a walking trail in celebration of the city’s upcoming bicentennial.

18 offenders from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently attended the Faith and Fathers Parenting Seminar.

Reception Diagnostic Center held its annual Correctional Employees’ Week cookout and staff recognition ceremony. 39 employees received pins for years of service, and Community Advisory Board members in attendance were recognized as well.

Putnamville Correctional Facility staff participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life held at DePauw University. Staff raised a total of \$4,578 and walked in recognition of cancer survivors.

Rockville Correctional Facility’s Teddy Bear Club provided 60 crocheted teddy bears for delivery to Riley Children’s Hospital. The bears will be delivered by Central Elementary School students as part of a Student Council field trip to the hospital.

Indiana State Prison had 130 students from 5 different schools and 2 different states participate in the “Voices Behind the Wall” program, which informs students about making the right choices in life. An offender shared his testimony about not being able to attend prom, not receiving his driver’s license, and never going to high school as a result of his actions.